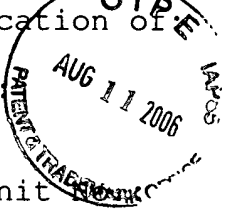


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of  Richard B. Streeter et al.
Serial No.: 10/090,968
Filing Date: 03/05/2002
For: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR REDUCING
MITRAL REGURGITATION
Group Art Unit: 3738
Examiner: Brian E. Pellegrino
Attorney's Docket No.: VIA-17

Mail Stop RCE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

PETITION FOR AUTOMATIC EXTENSION OF TIME TO RESPOND

Applicants hereby petition for a three (3) month extension of time to respond to the outstanding OFFICIAL ACTION mailed February 8, 2006 with respect to the above-identified patent application, thereby extending the time for response from May 8, 2006 to August 8, 2006.

A check in the amount of \$ 510.00 is enclosed to cover the cost of the petition fee. This petition fee has been calculated on the basis of a Small Entity status.

In the event that any additional fees may be required to be paid in connection with this matter, please charge the same, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 16-0221.
A duplicate copy of this Petition is enclosed for the convenience of the Office.

Thank you.

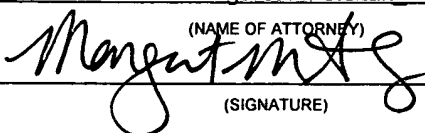
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE AS FIRST CLASS MAIL, POSTAGE PREPAID, IN AN ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, PO BOX 1450, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450, ON:

August 8, 2006

(DATE OF DEPOSIT)

Margaret M. Slezak

(NAME OF ATTORNEY)

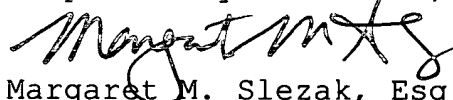


(SIGNATURE)

August 8, 2006

(DATE OF SIGNATURE)

Respectfully submitted,



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